

ASK THE GATER

Who is the Applegate Valley named after?

BY LISA BALDWIN

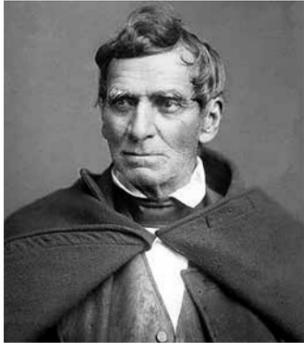
The Applegate family was one of the most prominent pioneer families in Oregon.

Three Applegate brothers—Charles, Lindsay, and Jesse—brought their families to Oregon Territory in 1843, traveling on the Oregon Trail with the first wagon train departing from Independence, Missouri.

At the site of what's now known as The Dalles, the trail-weary emigrants had a tough decision: build rafts and float their families and provisions down the Columbia River to reach the Willamette Valley or take the much slower land route through the dense forest around Mount Hood.

The Applegates chose the water route down the Columbia. One of the rafts capsized in the wild river, and two Applegate children perished: Jesse's son, Edward, and Lindsay's son, Warren. Both boys were nine years old. It was this loss that three years later prompted the grieving fathers to lead an expedition to find a safer overland route to the Willamette Valley for other pioneer families. This "Southern Route" became known as the Applegate Trail.

The Applegate Trail, however, does not come into the Applegate Valley. Lindsay Applegate is our valley's namesake. After



Lindsay Applegate, 1808-1892. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society.

settling first in the mid-Willamette Valley and, a few years later, making a land grant claim in the Umpqua Valley near Yoncalla, Lindsay came to the Rogue Valley in 1848 on his way to the gold fields in California. He was not in our neck of the woods for long, but he spent some time prospecting on the river that now bears his name.

In 1859, Lindsay moved his family to southern Oregon, and he spent the rest of his life in Jackson and Klamath counties. He ran a toll road that came across the Siskiyou Pass. He was an Indian Agent at Fort Klamath from 1861-66. Shortly after Oregon gained statehood (1859), Lindsay was elected as the Southern District's representative to the state legislature, serving from 1862-63.

He left government service in 1866 and lived on his farm in Ashland until just before his death in 1892, at age 84, when he moved to the Swan Lake Valley (northeast of Klamath Falls) to be with family in his last days.

Today, two direct descendants of Lindsay Applegate—his great-great-grandchildren David Applegate and Carolyn Applegate Standfield—live in Williams with their families.

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Connecting with nature at Hidden Meadows horse ranch

BY APRIL FLECHER

As the world rushes by amid the ever-changing atmosphere of life, many of us have gotten lost in the isolation. Social media has taken over, and despite the number of friends that may show on one's social media page, people are more isolated and alone than ever. Many have forgotten the simple joys that surround us: the beauty of nature, the deep breath of clean mountain air, or the bond that a horse and rider share.

I am a recent relocater from the San Francisco Bay Area. The Applegate has welcomed me and my crew of animals in its arms. I have stepped out of the chaos of 60-hour workweeks and the increased pressures of corporate life to be healed by Hidden Meadows Estate, located on Thompson Creek Road. There is a magic here among the trees and within the sprawling meadows that only the Applegate can offer.

Hidden Meadows is not just a boarding and training facility. We are a family looking to bring back to ourselves and those around us the simple joys in life. We are here to bring back the connection to nature, horse, rider, and oneself. Once you drive through the masterfully wrought gates at Hidden Meadows, you



The gate at Hidden Meadows. Photo: April Flecher.

have stepped back in time, to a simpler life. I have been forever changed by the incredible beauty and the welcoming people here in the serene folds of the Applegate Valley.

We are a sprawling 60-acre horse ranch offering not only in-person lessons, but also the latest technology for remote training sessions called Pivo (with a camera that can rotate 360-degrees and automatically tracks a moving object). You can ride all year long in the 200- by 60-foot covered arena, and your horse will be spoiled in their oversized pasture space.

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